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APPENDIX, No. II.

AT THE
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY,

Held on the 7th June, 1931;

SIR ALEXANDER JOHNSTON, Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence, read the Report of that Committee's operations since the Anniversary in 1830, as follows:

FOURTH REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE
OF THE
Royal Asiatic Society.

THE Committee of Correspondence have to report on this occasion, that since the last Anniversary Meeting their attention has been directed to the following points of research, *viz.*

1. The history of the intercourse that has been carried on between Europe and the East-Indies through the Red Sea, from the earliest period to the present time, and the information possessed upon this point by Professors HEEREN and BOHLEN, in Germany; M. de la BORDE, in France; and Mr. COFFIN, in Abyssinia.

2. The history of the Jews who are settled at Cochin and in other parts of India; to a set of inquiries drawn up for them upon this subject by the Rev. H. H. MILMAN, author of the History of the Jews, and to lithographic copies of the ancient inscriptions that were collected by Lord PRUDHOM in the country between Mount Sinai and the Red Sea; also to the nature of the intercourse that subsisted between the Jews of Abyssinia and those of Cochin, it being supposed by some persons that part of the Jews at Cochin are descended from Jews who originally came from *Adulis*, in Abyssinia, at the time when a very extensive trade was carried on between that port and Cochin, and the ancient port of *Hipporas*, now called Coudramallee, in the island of Ceylon.

3. The history of the Catholic descendants of the Portuguese and French who are settled in different countries in India. In this inquiry the Committee have received much assistance from the Abbé DUBOIS, who was so long in India, and who is now the Director General of all the Catholic missions in India which are supported by the French nation.

4. The geology of India. The Committee have received an interesting letter on this subject, addressed by M. JACQUEMONT to Sir A. JOHNSTON, dated at Ladakh, 18th September 1830, giving a short account of the observations he had made upon the geology of the Himalaya Mountains and the other parts of India through which he had travelled. They have also been informed by Lord WM. BENTINCK, that his Lordship will, as they requested him, distribute to the different surveyors' departments in British India, copies of the instructions which they have sent to his Lordship and to the Hon. Sir C. COLVILLE, Governor of the Isle of France, to enable them to collect such information as may be necessary for forming geological maps of the territories under their respective authorities.

5. The botany of India. The Committee have received from Dr. WALLICH a most valuable paper upon this subject, in which he illustrates the practical advantage that may be derived from an attentive observation of the vegetable productions of India.

6. The languages of India. As a very accurate knowledge has already been obtained by some of the most distinguished Oriental scholars of many, if not of the whole, of the languages that prevail in India, the Committee have devoted their attention more particularly to the languages of Thibet, Burmah, Laos, Siam, Pegu, and Cambodia, and those of the islands which extend from Borneo east to Madagascar west. On the language of Thibet the Committee hope to derive much information from the labours of M. CSOMA de KÖROS. On those of Burmah, Laos, Pegu, Siam, and Cambodia, the Committee have received from Sir A. JOHNSTON a very interesting paper,* drawn up by the Rev. C. GUTSLAFF, who is at present making a missionary tour through Cochin China and the adjacent countries. In the languages of the islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans the Committee continue to receive from Sir C. COLVILLE, and to forward to Baron W. HUMBOLDT, at Berlin, various important documents.

7. The laws of inheritance, as they prevail under various modifications in different parts of India.

8. The history of the Lake *Mæris* in Egypt, as connected with the history of the five great lakes or tanks in the southern and eastern parts of Ceylon, the traditions relating to which have induced some persons to suppose that they were constructed upon principles of irrigation derived from Egypt during the commercial intercourse which subsisted in ancient times between Abyssinia and the island of Ceylon.

9. The ancient state of agriculture in the northern and eastern parts of Ceylon; the commercial intercourse which subsisted in ancient times between that island and various

* Inserted in the *Transactions* of the Royal Asiatic Society, vol. iii. page 291.

ports in Persia, Arabia, and Africa, when the town of Mantotte was the great emporium of all the trade that was carried on by sea between the western and eastern portions of the globe; the antiquities of the island as illustrating the laws, religion, manners, and customs of the people, and as connected with the history, laws, and religion of the inhabitants of Siam; the botany of the island as affecting many of the moral and political changes which have taken place in the situation of the several castes of people in the country; and the zoology, particularly that portion of it which relates to the various species of elephants that are found in different parts of the island.

The reading of this report being concluded, Sir ALEXANDER JOHNSTON proceeded to develop the proceedings of the Committee in a more ample manner in the address of which the substance is subjoined; and it was then

RESOLVED,

“That he be requested to reduce his observations to writing, and that they be
“printed together with the Report in the Appendix to the *Transactions* of the
“Society.”

GENTLEMEN:

You have heard an account of the proceedings of the Committee of Correspondence for the last twelve months; some of them relate to India in general, some to the island of Ceylon in particular; they are all calculated to procure information relative to four questions of immediate interest and public importance. The first, that of the revival, in consequence of the discovery of steam navigation, of the commercial intercourse which was formerly carried on between Europe and Asia through the Red Sea. The second, that of the policy of allowing European British subjects to settle in the interior of India, for the purpose of introducing amongst the natives of the country British capital, British industry, British arts and sciences, and British improvements. The third, that of the practicability of framing a particular code of laws for the use of the natives of India, which shall be adapted to the circumstances of the country and to the wants of the people; which shall be divested of all technicalities; which shall be short and precise; and which shall materially diminish, if not entirely prevent the delay, the expense, and the inconvenience to which the administration of justice is now subject in India. The fourth, that of the different measures which are necessary to restore the northern and eastern provinces of Ceylon to the state of agricultural and commercial prosperity which they enjoyed from the first to the fifteenth century, when they were the emporium of all the maritime trade which was carried on between the western and eastern portions of the globe. It is essential to the character and success of the Society, to have it generally known that the researches of the Committee are not only of importance to science and literature, but, that they are of immediate use to the public; I, therefore, feel it to be my duty as Chairman of the Committee, to point out distinctly in what manner each of the researches which we have instituted during the last twelve months is of immediate use-

to the public, by procuring for them such information as may enable them to form a correct judgment upon the one or the other of the four questions to which I have alluded.

It is of immediate use to the public, at a time when many persons are desirous of reviving, in consequence of the discovery of steam navigation, the intercourse which was carried on in ancient times between Europe and Asia, through the Red Sea, to have before them all the information which can now be procured, relative to the manner in which that intercourse has been carried on in different ages, by different nations, and relative to the commercial and the political effects which it has successively produced on the prosperity of those nations.

The Committee have, therefore, with a view to the first question, directed their researches to the history of Palmyra, Balbec, Petra, Suez, Adulis, Cairo, Thebes, Cocyra, Eziongeber, and Acbana, during the period when those places were enriched by the trade which was carried on between Europe and India, through the Red Sea; they have examined all the ancient and modern maps of the river Nile and of the Red Sea; the present state of the steam navigation in that river, and in that sea, the degree of encouragement it is likely to receive from the Páshá of Egypt, and the probability of his discovering coals in his own or in the neighbouring countries; they have referred for information to the valuable works of HEEREN and LABORDE, and trust that Mr. MARSDEN, who has already illustrated with so much ability the travels of MARCO POLO, will enable them, by illustrating in a similar manner the work of INDICOPLEUSTES, to ascertain the geographical positions of many of the ports, which that work describes as the great emporia of the Indian trade in former ages.

It is of use to the public, at the time when the British Parliament are deliberating upon the policy of allowing Europeans to settle in the British possessions in India, to be fully acquainted with the history of all the descendants of foreign nations, who are settled in other parts of India; with the mineral and vegetable productions of the country, and with the various languages which are spoken by the several people who inhabit the neighbouring territories. The Committee have therefore, with reference to the second question, directed their researches to the history of the descendants of the Jews, who are established at Cochin; of the descendants of the Syrian Christians who are established in the Travancore country; and of the descendants of the Portuguese and the French, who are established at Goa and Pondicherry. To the botany and geology of India, and to the different languages which are spoken in Siam, Laos, Cambodia, the Burmese empire, and Thibet; the Committee have been assisted in their enquiries respecting the history of the Jews, by the instructions drawn up for their use by the Rev. Mr. MILMAN; by the fac-similes sent them by Lord PRUDHOE, of inscriptions found by his Lordship between Mount Sinai and the Red Sea; and by some ancient accounts of the Jews settled in Abyssinia. In those respecting the descendants of the Portuguese and the French, by the Abbé DUBOIS; in those respecting the botany of India, by Dr. WALLICH, who has prepared for their use a paper upon the subject, drawn up by him partly from his own information, and partly from that of the late Dr.

BUCHANAN HAMILTON : in those respecting the geology of India, by M. JACQUEMONT, one of their foreign members; and by Lord WILLIAM BENTINCK, to whom they have forwarded a copy recently given to them by Dr. FITTON, the late President of the Geological Society, of the instructions which were originally prepared by that eminent geologist, for the use of the officers who were employed in the survey of Ireland : in those respecting the languages of Siam, Laos, Pegu, Burmah, and Cambodia, by a paper written by the protestant missionary, the Rev. Mr. GUTZLAFF, and presented by me to the Society. In those respecting the language of Thibet by the Oriental Translation Committee, who, on my proposal have offered to purchase the Grammar and the Dictionary compiled by Mr. CSOMA DE KÖROS, a native of Hungary, who has been for some time on his travels through different parts of Asia.

It is of use to Parliament, at a time when they are deliberating upon the advantage of framing a separate code of laws for British India, to be acquainted with all the different modifications of the laws and usages, which at present prevail amongst all the different classes of inhabitants throughout that immense empire. The Committee have therefore, with a view to the third question, directed their researches to the laws and usages of all the different natives who live under the British authority in India. Aware of the great influence which the right of property and the laws of inheritance have had in all ages and in all nations, in leading human society to its highest improvements, they have particularly examined those laws and usages in India, which are directly or indirectly calculated to secure the right and to regulate the inheritance of property of every description. They have traced the origin and the different modifications of all the different laws of inheritance, as well those according to which property descends in certain proportions both to males and females, as those according to which it, in some provinces, and amongst some classes of people, descends only to females : the various rights of children by birth, and those of children by adoption. The difference between the rule of law, which applies to the property which a person inherits from his ancestors, and that which applies to the property which he acquires by his own industry and talents. They have considered the moral and the political effect of all these laws and usages upon the character of the people, and the prosperity of the country ; they have derived much valuable information upon the subject from the memoir of the late General WALKER, and they expect to derive still more from the appendixes which will in future be attached to each case, which is brought in appeal from the Courts of *Sadder Adálat* at Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, before the King in Council in this country.*

* The circumstances which led to the addition of an appendix of this description to each case in appeal, shew the great benefit which the natives of India, and the government of Great Britain, may derive from the labours of this Society. Sir ALEXANDER JOHNSTON, about five years ago, while engaged as Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence, in researches relative to the ancient history and laws of the Rájás of Ramnad, discovered that a case involving the right of succession to the Zemindary of Ramnad, and forty-nine other cases, involving questions of *Hindú* and *Muhammedan* law of great importance, had been in appeal, from the Courts of *Sadder Adálat* in India, before the King in Council, for a great many years, and that they had not been heard in consequence of the

It is of use to his Majesty's Ministers, at the time they are adopting measures for restoring the Island of Ceylon to its former state of agricultural and commercial prosperity, to be made thoroughly acquainted with the ancient and present state of every part of that valuable island. The Committee therefore, with a view to the fourth question, have directed their researches to the ancient history of the island, to the ancient site of its principal cities, to its ancient code of morals, to its ancient form of government, to its ancient trade, to its ancient system of agriculture and irrigation, and to its animal and vegetable productions. They are collecting all the geographical and local information necessary to explain and illustrate the English translation of the three ancient histories of Ceylon, the *Mahāvamsi*, the *Rājavali*, and the *Rājaratnūcari*,* all the manuscripts which contain any account of the ancient cities and temples of Jaffna, Mantotte, Anarājapura, Monisseram, Trincomalee, Trecoil, and Dewandera, of the early sanctity of Adam's Peak and Cadregam, and of the frequent pilgrimages performed in ancient times by innumerable devotees and invalids from the most distant parts of India to the ancient Hindú temple at Trincomalee, and to the different hot wells in that neighbourhood, which were believed by the Hindús in those days to be one of the favourite resorts of the sage called ANGUSTIER, adored throughout the Peninsula of India for his medical knowledge and his universal wisdom. They are about to have an English translation made of the great *Budd'hist* work in our library called *Pansiya-panas-jatakaya*, which contains a description of 550 of the transmigrations of BUDD'HA, and the whole system of morals observed by the *Budd'hists* in Ceylon.† They are comparing the account drawn up by the late Sir John D'OYLY, with all the other accounts drawn up at different times by different persons in Portuguese, Dutch, and English, of the form of government which prevailed in the Candyan country for upwards of two thousand years, and which affords a very correct picture of the form of government

parties interested in them, who were all natives of India, being ignorant of the steps necessary to be taken to bring them forward before the Privy Council. Sir ALEXANDER, immediately on this discovery, adopted measures by which the attention of his Majesty's Government, and that of both houses of Parliament, were called to the subject; and at the same time stated to Government, that the best way of remedying the evil for the present, and preventing its recurrence for the future, would be to attach a civil servant of the East-India Company's service, well acquainted with the proceedings of the *Sudder Adálat*, as a Registrar of East-Indian appeals to the Privy Council, and in order that the Privy Council might become thoroughly acquainted with the nature and importance of those appeals, advised them to employ Mr. RICHARD CLARKE, a member of this Society, to whom Sir ALEXANDER had previously communicated his ideas upon the subject, in arranging all the papers connected with the appeals, and in having them printed with such ample appendixes as might exhibit in a clear manner to the public, the different parts of the *Hindú* and *Muhammedan* law, according to which the decisions of the Privy Council are regulated. The suggestions of Sir ALEXANDER having been adopted, and Mr. CLARKE having been employed, all papers relative to the different cases of appeal have now been arranged by that gentleman, and are about to be printed with an appendix attached to each of them, similar to the one presented by Sir ALEXANDER to the Society some days ago.

* Sir ALEXANDER JOHNSTON had these translations made while he was in Ceylon.

† This copy was procured by Sir ALEXANDER JOHNSTON from the celebrated temple of *Mulgerigalle* in Ceylon, and presented by him to the library of the Society: he had great difficulty in procuring so correct and so complete a copy; he succeeded after various inquiries in obtaining it by the assistance of some very intelligent Priests, whom he employed in collecting for him copies of all the most scarce and the most valuable of the works of the *Budd'hists*, from the numerous collections in the different *Budd'ha* temples in Ceylon.

that prevailed amongst all the *Hindús* throughout India in the most remote ages. They are enquiring into the nature of the lucrative trade which was carried on from the first to the fourteenth century, between the ancient Port of *Adulis* in Abyssinia and that of *Hipporos* in the island of Ceylon; into the course pursued during the same period by vessels of considerable bulk while navigating the only two passages, the one near the Island of *Rámiseram*, the other near that of *Manár*, which lead through the ridge of sand banks extending from Ceylon to the southern peninsula of India, and generally known amongst Europeans by the name of *Adam's Bridge*; into the history of the *Muhammedans* established on the Island of *Manár* in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, who by their armed vessels commanded every approach to those two passages; into that of the pearl and chank fisheries on the coasts of the peninsula of India, and on those of the island of Ceylon, from the earliest period to the present times; and into that of the female sovereign called *ALIARSANEY*, who reigned in the early period of the history of Ceylon over the north-eastern portion of the island, and who was celebrated in her days for the greatness of her wealth, for her genius and acquirements, and for the patronage which she afforded to those who were distinguished for their knowledge in science and literature. They are collecting all the information which can be obtained relative to the six large tanks or reservoirs of water on the island, which are believed to have been constructed in the same age and on the same principles, as the lake *Mæris* in Egypt, and the extensive tanks in the peninsula of India, and which are celebrated in the ancient annals of the island for the skill with which they were regulated, and for the quantity of water with which they could always supply the rice-fields in their neighbourhood. They are enquiring into the natural history of the island, its zoology and botany, into the character and habits of its elephants, and the practicability of adapting them to particular descriptions of labour;* into the growth and culture of its cinnamon, of its *cháya* root (the *olderlandia umbellata* of LINNÆUS,) and of its several varieties of the palm; of the *talpát* (the *coryphæa umbraculifera*), and the Jaggery (the *caroyta urens*), in the interior, of the coco-nut (the *cocos-nucifera*), in the southern, and of the palmyra (the *borassus flabelliformis*) in the northern provinces. Into the local limits within which each of these are brought to perfection. Into the several uses and manufactures to which they are applied. Into the moral and political effects which they have produced upon the situation and habits of all the people who are employed in their cultivation, and in the manufacture of their produce. Into the practicability of forming a botanical map of the whole island. Into the knowledge which the natives of Jaffna have possessed from the earliest times, of the male and the female of the palm called the Palmyra palm, or *borassus flabelliformis*. Into the practical use which they have made of that knowledge. Into the manner in which it was first communicated by them to the Dutch botanist HERMAN,

* The late Marquis of LONDONDERY, on the suggestion of Sir ALEXANDER JOHNSTON, had determined in 1809 to establish a Zoological society in Ceylon, on a plan which Sir ALEXANDER had given him, but his lordship's resignation soon afterwards, of the office of Secretary of State for the Colonies, prevented this plan from being carried into effect.

while he resided in Ceylon from 1670 to 1677; and into that in which it was, fifty years after his death, communicated by AUGUSTUS GUNTER, an apothecary at Copenhagen to LINNÆUS, who on receiving HERMAN's papers from him, discovered the information which ultimately led that great naturalist to the classification of all vegetable productions according to the sexual system.*

Having explained to the Society the different points to which the researches of the Committee have been directed during the last twelve months, I shall take the liberty to call their attention to some events, which must facilitate the future proceedings of the Society, and extend the influence of science and literature over the *Hindú* and *Muhammedan* population of Asia.

The English and the French governments, equally anxious to promote scientific enquiries in India, have recently aided each other in the attainment of this great object. France, by the appointment of M. JACQUEMONT, an eminent naturalist, to proceed to India and to remain there for seven years upon a public salary, for the purpose of investigating the natural history of that country. England, by affording M. JACQUEMONT in every part of British India the most ready and the most efficient assistance. Both nations, by completely divesting themselves of the national jealousy which has so long prevailed between them, have set a bright example to all other nations of the cordial and unreserved manner in which all countries ought to co-operate according to the means which they respectively possess, in promoting those researches which are calculated to extend the limits of scientific and literary knowledge.

The Society have lately acquired the active and zealous co-operation in their literary researches of two very able Christian missionaries in India, the one a Catholic, the other a Protestant; the first the Abbé DUBOIS, well known in France and England, by the very interesting and very accurate account which he has published of the people of the southern peninsula of India; the second, the Rev. Mr. GUTZLAFF, a German gentleman, who is attached to one of the missions in the eastern peninsula of Asia, and who has for many years devoted his attention to the history and to the languages of the different nations who inhabit that peninsula.

The importance of obtaining the zealous co-operation, in our literary researches, of the missionaries, as well Catholic as Protestant, who are established in different parts of Asia, must be felt by all who consider the extent of the knowledge which has been

* The late Lord LIVERPOOL, on the suggestion of Sir ALEXANDER JOHNSTON, established a royal botanical garden in Ceylon in 1811, for the purpose of investigating and improving all the vegetable productions of the island, and introducing into different parts of it from foreign countries, all such trees, plants, shrubs, and vegetables, as might be of use to the inhabitants either as articles of food, or as articles of manufacture and trade. In order to give the natives a taste for the study of Botany, Sir ALEXANDER proposed to the late Mr. KERR, when he was appointed head of the botanical garden in Ceylon, to prepare for the use of the natives such a work in the Tamil and Cingalese languages as might enable them to understand the nature of the Linnæan system, and to arrange all the vegetable productions of the island according to that system. Mr. KERR died before he had prepared this work, but Mr. MOON, his successor, to whom Sir ALEXANDER had communicated his ideas upon the subject, some years afterwards published such a work in English and Cingalese. (a)

(a) *A Catalogue of the Indigenous and Exotic Plants growing in Ceylon, &c.*, by ALEXANDER MOON; 4to. Colombo, 1824.

derived of many countries and many languages through them for the last two centuries; the missionaries in India, both Catholic and Protestant, from the zeal and perseverance with which they study the languages of the countries in which they reside, and from the familiar manner in which they associate with the natives of those countries, have been enabled to obtain at all times and in all parts of Asia, the most curious, and the most important information relative to the manners, the history, and the religion, of the people, as is distinctly proved by the numerous publications of the Catholic missionaries relative to China, by the accurate knowledge acquired by ROBERTUS de NOBILIBUS in the seventeenth, and by BESCHI in the eighteenth centuries, of the people and languages of the southern peninsula of India, and by the very great progress which has been made in Oriental literature and in the languages of India and China within the last thirty years by the three celebrated Protestant missionaries, CAREY, WARD, and MORRISON.

The Right Hon. CHARLES GRANT, a member of our society, has been recently appointed by his Majesty to the high and responsible office of President of the Board of Control. The liberal and statesmanlike views which that gentleman entertains with respect to the government of British India, will secure for this Society his valuable support, and for the natives of India, such institutions as, by giving them a lively interest in the government of their country, will afford them a powerful motive for improving their understandings, and for promoting the study of European science and literature amongst all classes of their countrymen.

Sir R. WILMOT HORTON, another member of our society, has also been recently appointed by his Majesty to the office of Governor of the island of Ceylon. The lectures which that gentleman has delivered at the London Mechanics' Institution upon a subject of great importance to the interests and welfare of the different orders of society, and the very liberal manner in which he has discussed in print the merits of the opinions which he entertains upon the subject, show the activity with which he applies himself to the diffusion of useful knowledge amongst all classes of his countrymen, and the manly view which he takes of the use and the influence of the press, as an instrument for circulating throughout a country such ideas as may tend to the moral and political improvement of the people.

RAJA RAMMOHUN ROY, also a member of our society, a *Brahman* of ancient family, of high rank, of distinguished talents, and of great influence amongst his countrymen, acting upon the principles of a true patriot, has for many years written and published several very able works, the uniform object of which is to enlighten the understanding of his countrymen, and so to raise the standard of moral and political feeling amongst them, as to enable the *Hindús* of India once more to assume, by their proficiency in arts, science, and literature, the high station which they held in former ages amongst the most enlightened nations in the world. Urged by the duty which he owes to his country, and unmindful of the dangers which he had to encounter from a sea voyage and a change of climate, he has now come to England, in order that he may, after having examined on the spot the practical effects of all our moral and

political institutions, gradually introduce amongst his countrymen such of them as he may think applicable to their situation and conducive to their prosperity and happiness. No event connected with the interests of India can be more important than the arrival in England of so remarkable a man, at a moment when the British Parliament is about to legislate for the whole of the British empire in India, and must be anxious to learn the opinion upon the subject of so great a scholar and so enlightened a philosopher.

The Páshá of Egypt, one of our honorary members, a chief of a clear and vigorous mind, observing the advantage European states have derived from a similar policy, has publicly encouraged the introduction into Egypt of all those arts and sciences which are calculated to improve the understandings of the people, to mitigate the effects of their religious feelings, and to secure the stability of the local government; he has assimilated his army and his navy to those of Europe, and subjected them to European regulations and to European discipline; he has formed corps of artillery and engineers upon European principles; he has attached regular bands of military music to each of his regiments, with European instructors, who teach the Arab musicians according to the European notes of music, to play upon European instruments the popular marches and airs of England, France, and Germany; a short distance from Cairo he has established a permanent military hospital, and placed it under European surgeons, and the same rules as prevail in the best-regulated hospitals in Europe; and he has formed a school of medicine and anatomy, in which not only botany, mineralogy, and chymistry, are taught, but human bodies are publicly dissected by students who profess the *Muhamunedan* religion, and who are publicly rewarded in the heart of a great *Muhammedan* population according to the skill and the knowledge which they display in their different dissections. At Alexandria he has established a naval school, in which the *Muhammedan* students are instructed in the several branches of geometry, trigonometry, mechanics, and astronomy, connected with naval architecture and the science of navigation, and a dock yard under the control and superintendence of a European naval architect, distinguished for his talents and his skill, in which, besides frigates and other vessels of smaller dimensions, four ships of the line, three carrying one hundred and ten guns upon two decks, and one of one hundred and thirty guns have been recently built; he has opened the old port, which was formerly shut against them, to all Christian vessels. He has encouraged the formation of regular insurance offices, and authorised Christian merchants to acquire a property in lands, houses, and gardens. He has employed an English civil engineer of great eminence on a very liberal salary to improve all the canals in the country and the course of the Nile; he is about to construct carriage roads from Alexandria to Cairo, and from Alexandria to Rosetta and Damietta; and M. Abro, the cousin of his minister, is about to establish upon them public stage coaches, built on a model of one sent to him by a coachmaker from this country; he has introduced steam-boats, which navigate upon the Nile, and steam-engines, which are used for cleansing and deepening the bed of that river, and for various other public works; he has patronized the employment by Mr. BRIGGS of

two Englishmen, taken for the purpose from this country, in boring for water in different parts of the desert, and he has discovered through their operations some very fine water in the desert between Cairo and Suez;* he has encouraged the growth of cotton, indigo and opium, and the former of these productions is now a great article of trade between Egypt and England, France, and Germany; he has established schools in the country, for the instruction of all orders of his people, in reading, writing, and arithmetic; he has sent, at great expense to himself, young men both of the higher and lower ranks of society to England and France, for the purpose of acquiring useful knowledge, the former in those branches of science and literature which are connected with their service in the army, the navy, and the higher departments of government; the latter in those mechanical arts, which are more immediately connected with their employment as artizans and manufacturers; he has constituted a public assembly at Cairo, consisting of a considerable number of well-informed persons, who hold regular sittings for forty days in each year, and publicly discuss for his information the interests and wants of his different provinces; he patronises the publication of a weekly newspaper in Arabic and Turkish, for the instruction of his people, and finally he protects all Christian merchants who are settled in his country, not only in time of peace, but also in time of war, and afforded the European merchants who were settled at Alexandria and at Cairo, a memorable instance of his determination to adhere under all circumstances to this policy, by informing them, as soon as he received intelligence of the battle of Navarino, that their persons and their property should continue as secure as if no such event had occurred. I have dwelt at some length upon this subject because I have felt it to be my duty, in consequence of the information which I have received as Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence, to give publicity in this country to those measures, by which one of the most distinguished of our honorary members has restored to Egypt, in their highest state of perfection, all the arts and sciences of Europe; has emulated, as a patron of knowledge, the conduct of the most enlightened of the Caliphs of Bagdad; and has afforded, as a *Muhammedan*, a bright example for their imitation, to all the *Muhammedan* sovereigns in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

* The inhabitants of Africa and Arabia are indebted for all the benefits which they may ultimately derive from a knowledge of this art, to the philanthropy and liberality of our countryman Mr. BRIGGS, who was the first European who ever thought of applying this art to the discovery of water in the deserts of Africa, and who at his own private expense sent over from England to Egypt, the two Englishmen, who have succeeded by their skill in discovering water in the part of the desert which has been mentioned.